

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 5 and 6 will be pending.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's continued attention and consideration.

Claims 5 and 6 are allowed.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiyama (U.S. 6,841,741 B2) and in view of Aoki et al. (U.S. 6,774,319 B2).

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention over the art of record. Specifically, claim 1 recites: *"Apparatus for estimating the weight of an occupant of a vehicle seat supported by a floor bracket, the apparatus comprising: a force sensor; and a compliant force transfer mechanism interposed between said floor bracket and a mounting bracket of said seat, including first and second co-joined lever arms coupled to said floor bracket and said mounting bracket ... wherein said first and second lever arms are interconnected at an active joint disposed adjacent said jaws and a passive joint that limits relative displacement therebetween."*

Neither Kajiyama nor Aoki et al. describe or suggest the use of active and passive joints between a pair of lever arms as now claimed.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

Applicant believes, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,


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